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REVIEWS AND BOOK NOTICES.

A New English Dictionary on Historical Principles. Edited by Sir JAMES A. H. MURRAY. Oxford, at the Clarendon Press, 1911.

During the past year the following Parts of the Oxford English Dictionary have appeared: Jan. 2, 1911, Si-Simple (Volume IX), by W. A. Craigie, M. A., LL. D.; April 1, 1911, Scouring-Sedum (Volume VIII), by Henry Bradley; July 1, 1911, Team-Tezkere (Volume IX), by Sir James A. H. Murray; Oct. 2, 1911, Simple-Sleep (Volume IX), by W. A. Craigie, M. A., LL. D. Thus the great work is gradually approaching completion, and those of us who saw the beginning may possibly see the end. The usual epithets of "magnificent", "monumental", and the like, have been long since exhausted, and we have simply to record the facts, and leave epithets to the imagination. The plan and treatment are familiar to all scholars, and those of us whose regular business it is to record progress have only to attend to our business, hoping to live long enough to see the end.

Pursuing the illustrations of words, with which the readers of these articles are familiar, I note the O. E. 'sib', of which examples are given from Beowulf on to 1858 of the substantive, and from Beowulf on to 1891 of the adjective, e. g., "Grand 'sib' hen canaries, pink-eyed strain, to breed light mules",—a technical use of the word 'mules'. The adjective use of 'sibbe', in the sense of "related", is seen from Wyclif to Christopher North; and in that of a kinsman or kinswoman, 1894, F. S. Ellis, Reynard the Fox, "My old-time 'sib', my ancient crony". So note 'sibness' and 'sibred', and, in the East Anglian dialect, "the banns of marriage", "Probably from the mention, in the banns, of 'sibred' as an impediment to the marriage", example given as late as 1884.

Interesting examples are found of Sibyl from the Cursor Mundi (1300) to 1842, and even later, for we have in Dr. Coles's *Dies Irae*: "Teste David cum Sibylla". So examples of the adjective 'Sibylline' from 1579-80, North's Plutarch, on to 1882, Farrar's Early Christianity. While we find, 'side-step', we miss 'side-swipe', but it may come in when we reach the main-word 'swipe'. We owe 'Simon Pure' to "The name of a Quaker in Mrs. Centlivre's comedy, A bold stroke for a wife (1717)".

'Simony' is found from the 'Ancren Riwe', 1225, on, the latest example being from Freeman's Norman Conquest (1876), although it is very common since the 13th century.

Passing on, we find the word 'Scratch-back' in the sense of an instrument, and of a toy, but we miss the use, common in America, applied to a piece of cornbread with rough, corrugated surface, often used for breakfast in the southern parts of the United States. 'Scratch' is well-known from Caxton on, and is probably formed by metathesis.

'Scuppernong' is marked U. S., and defined as the name of a river in North Carolina, and applied to the grape that is indigenous to the valley of the river, but it is a question whether the grape does not give its name to the river, and so precede the river in terminology. Cannot some writer settle the question?

In a vain effort to perpetuate correct spelling, it is well to repeat the note appended to 'Scythe': "The etymologically correct spelling 'sithe' was preferred by Johnson, but his authority has not prevailed against the currency of the spelling with 'sc', due to erroneous association with L. 'scindere', to cut. Cf. 'scissors'". And yet the great argument of sciolists in behalf of our present spelling, is that, if we change it in accord with the spelling reformers, "we obscure the 'etymology'". O wonderful etymology! Let not the public be deceived by that argument for our present incongruous spelling. The simple 'Sea' fills over twenty-one columns, and its compounds some twenty more, so that we have a very large number of words and phrases of which this simple little Old English word forms a part.

The word 'Seal', the animal, is of Teutonic origin, whereas Seal, the device, is of Latin origin, 'sigillum', both as noun and verb. The latter part of the article contains many words of Latin origin, but on the whole the two portions of the language are here fairly mixed.

"The double section Team-Tezkere contains 2068 main words, 255 combinations explained under these, and 417 entries of obsolete forms, etc., amounting to 2740". Comparison of this Dictionary is made with Johnson, Cassell, Century, and Funk, showing the great superiority in number of words of the New English Dictionary over each of the others. Dr. Murray's Prefatory Note should be read for useful information, and for reference to certain words.

The 'Th' words are reserved for the next Part in 'T'. The pronunciation of Teat is given as 'tīt', although in our youth we heard only 'tit', dim. 'tittie', which is marked 'dial'. The word 'telegram' is not traced further back than 1852, but while 'telegrapheme' is given the preference in formation, 'telegram' prevailed over it in use. The editor thinks that "tells his tale", Milton L'Allegro 67, probably belongs under Tell 17, "relate a story", but most editors explain it as "counts his number or sum (i. e. of sheep)", and this writer agrees with the editors, even if "no instance has been found before the 19th c.¹ of the

¹ But cf. Prof. Hart's letter in *The Nation* for Jan. 11, 1912. See also *per contra* Prof. Kenyon, *Nation*, Jan. 25, and Prof. Hart's reply, *Nation*, Feb. 15.

expression in a numerical sense". Tell fills eight columns with its definitions. But lack of space will not permit much further notice of this Part.

While 'tertium quid' is briefly defined, we miss any notice of its application in American politics during Mr. Jefferson's administration to that small section of the state-rights Democrats who opposed his administration, of which section Mr. John Randolph was the leader, Mr. James Mercer Garnett and others were his followers, and who were known as the 'quids'. While all American usages of terms are not noted, we find 'the Texas' marked 'Western U. S.' and defined as "The uppermost structure of a river steamer, containing the pilot-house and officers' quarters", and illustrated by a quotation from 'Americanisms' by the late Professor Schele De Vere, of the University of Virginia. The last word 'Tezkere, teskere' may need definition for some readers, as it did for this one, meaning "A Turkish official memorandum or certificate of any kind". It is illustrated by quotations from Coryat, 1612, on to 1905, the Dundee Advertiser, where it is applied to a passport.

The last Section, 'Simple-Sleep', issued during the year is also a double section, containing "1611 main words, 220 combinations explained under these, and 577 subordinate entries of obsolete or variant forms, in all 2408". Comparison with some other prominent dictionaries gives the following: words recorded in Johnson 259; Cassell, 1109; Century, 1250; Funk, 1265; Here, 3277. 'Sin', as 'noun', fills over two columns, as 'verb', over one more, and as 'adv., prep., and conj.', in the Scotch and northern dialects, about one more. 'Since', a reduced form of 'sithence', fills about two columns. In a note on 'Sincere', we are glad to find that "there is no probability in the old explanation from 'sine cera' without wax". It is only surprising that there should ever have been such in anyone's imagination. We are informed that the common Latin phrase *sine qua non* "occurs in Boethius, and had its source in Aristotelian expressions". A little more than four columns are given to the common verb 'sing', and more than a dozen to 'single' and its compounds or derivatives, among which we find 'singlefoot' marked "U. S.", and defined also as "fox-trot", but we miss the more common definition in this country "dog-trot". It is a very comfortable gait, especially for a long journey, and if the English do not know it, they don't know what they miss. The word 'Sistine', common as it is in usage, is omitted as a separate word, but under 'Sixtine' we find "more rarely used as a variant of 'Sistine, the special epithet of the chapel and bridge built by Sixtus IV (1471-1484)". Why, then, should 'Sistine' be omitted?

'Skedaddle' is marked 'colloq.', and explained as "Orig. U. S. military slang, introduced during the Civil War of 1861-5", the earliest examples being from 1862, although we had a notable

example of the fact on July 21, 1861 (cf. "Battlefields of the South", London, 1863, I. 250). A transitive use is also given in the sense "To spill (milk, etc.)", and marked 'dial.', with example from 1862. Many words beginning with 'sk' are of Scandinavian origin, but 'skillet', with its ending 'et', "makes it probable that the source was AF. or OF".

JAMES M. GARNETT.

A Concordance to Beowulf, compiled by ALBERT S. COOK, Professor of the English Language and Literature in Yale University. Halle, Max Niemeyer, 1911. [G. E. Stechert & Co., agents, New York City.]

Professor Cook has conferred a benefit upon students of English by his recent publication of this work. In the opinion of this writer the work was worth doing, and will prove very useful to students of "Beowulf". When I look back thirty years, and recall the hesitation with which I committed to the press a certain translation of "Beowulf", made while reading the poem with a graduate class of students at St. John's College, Annapolis, Md., I cannot but be astonished at the progress which the study of "Beowulf", and indeed the study of Old English, has made since that time. We have just lost the coryphaeus of our studies, full of years and of honors, "*manna mildust ond mon-ðwærust, leodum lidost, ond lof-geornost*". He has not lived in vain, and wherever Old English is studied, the name of Professor March will be honored and revered.

Professor Cook has used the text of Wyatt's second edition (Cambridge, 1898), but he rightly says: "The progress of scholarship will certainly result in a better text". While Wyatt's is the best in English, we have Holthausen's in German, but I am inclined to think that someone of our younger scholars will have to issue an eclectic text. When that is done, *si vita maneant*, I should like to revise the translation referred to above, for I have long been aware of the necessity, but I wished to see *first* a revised text, which might serve as the basis for a revised translation. All work done on the poem is an aid to the desired end, and I trust it may be eventually attained. I have observed a disposition in some English translations to use my bibliography without acknowledgment, for when it was first made, there was nothing to go on, as far as I know, and I made the first compilation. This concordance, Professor Cook says, was prepared some years ago as the first instalment of a projected concordance to the complete extant remains of Old English poetry. I have not heard of any further instalment, but I hope that Professor Cook will not relinquish his intention. The work was printed in Germany, doubtless because printing is done there much cheaper than in this country. The printing is beautifully done, and, it is